

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-01 /091 W

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R 161448Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4010

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 4925

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: FPRO, EG, XF

SUBJECT: AHARAM: PLO MUST NOT OBSTRUCT PEACE

1. WEEKLY AHARAM COLUMN BY ITS CHAIRMAN IHSAN ABD AL-QUDDUS MAY 16 ECHOES SOME OF RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND ALSO REFLECTS GENERAL EGYPTIAN CONCERN ABOUT PLO. EGYPTIANS ARE WORRIED THAT PLO DETERMINATION NOT TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL COULD SUBVERT PEACE PROCESS. SOME EVEN BELIEVE US AND USSR MAY SEIZE ON THIS PLO INTRANSIGENCE AS EXCUSE FOR PRESERVING ME STATUS QUO.

2. ABD AL-QUDDUS IN FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "TO YASIR ARAFAT: LEST THE CAUSE BE FROZEN", REASONS AS FOLLOWS. SOVIET/USG DETENTE CONTINUES. EGYPT MOVES IN HARMONY WITH IT. IRAQ, WHICH HAD BEEN CLOSELY TIED TO USSR, HAS NOT ONLY EXPANDED ITS DEALINGS WITH US AND JAPAN, BUT NOW ALSO CONFRONTS NEW DIFFICULTIES WITH SOVIETS. SUPERPOWERS AGREE ON ME QUESTION. THEIR DIFFERENCES WERE NEVER OVER

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PRINCIPLES BUT ONLY OVER ARRANGEMENTS, AND NOW US HAS

ACKNOWLEDGED SOLUTION SHOULD BE PURSUED AT GENEVA, NOT THROUGH STEP-BY-STEP. SOVIETS HAVE HAD SECRET CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL AND HAVE TALKED WITH HUSAIN; USG HAS "INDIRECT COMMUNICATIONS" WITH PLO.

3. ABD AL-QUDDUS CONTINUES: SUPERPOWERS HAVE DESPAIRED OF CONVINCING ISRAEL AND ALSO ARABS. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY HE MEANS NEITHER SIDE WILL MAKE NECESSARY COMPROMISE FOR PEACE.) CONSEQUENTLY ONLY ROAD OPEN FOR SUPERPOWERS IS TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO. CONSEQUENTLY US AND USSR AGREED TO STOP ARMS SUPPLY TO ISRAELIS AND ARABS.

4. ISRAEL REFUSES RECOGNIZE PLO. SUPERPOWERS ARE RESOLVED TO GUARANTEE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL BEHIND 1967 BORDERS. WHAT IS NEW IN SITUATION IS USSR AND US BELIEF THAT AGREEMENT WITH ARABS IS IMPOSSIBLE SINCE ARABS THEMSELVES CANNOT GET TOGETHER. BREZHNEV, GROMYKO AND PRAVDA HAVE RECENTLY POINTED OUT SOLUTION DEPENDS ON ARAB THEMSELVES. IN THEIR EFFORTS FREEZE ISSUE, SUPERPOWERS MAY WELL BE COUNTING ON PLO'S REFUSAL RECOGNIZE ISRAEL ENTITY. SO LONG AS PLO REFUSES, IT CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA WHICH WILL CONVEY ON BASIS OF RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. SOVIETS AND ARAFAT LAST WEEK IN MOSCOW ARGUED THIS POINT.

5. ABD AL-QUDDUS MAKES THREE PROPOSALS TO SOLVE PLO PROBLEM:

A) HUSAIN COULD GO TO GENEVA, NOT AS PLO REP, BUT AS REP OF PRE-1967 POSITION, WHICH WOULD NOT COMPROMISE RABAT RECOGNITION OF PLO AS SOLE REP OF PALESTINIANS. HUSAIN COULD DELIVER PALESTINE TO ITS PEOPLE.

B) ARAB LEAGUE COULD REPRESENT PALESTINIANS. PLO HAS REJECTED THIS.

C) SYRIA COULD TAKE ON TASK SPEAKING IN NAME OF PLO AT GENEVA AFTER FORMATION OF JOINT POLITICAL-MILITARY COMMAND.

6. WHAT MATTERS, ABD AL-QUDDUS CONCLUDES, IS TO GIVE SUPERPOWERS NO EXCUSE TO FREEZE THE CAUSE. HIS IMPLICATION UNCLASSIFIED

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IS CLEAR: IT IS PLO WHICH MUST FALL INTO ARAB LINE.
EILTS

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